



**Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health**

Division of  
**Trauma &  
Injury Prevention**

## Prevention Monthly

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## News and Updates

### Health First Indiana

The Health First Indiana webpage is now live! Visit the link below to learn more about this state initiative to connect Hoosiers to core public health services. The funding updates map shows the counties that opted-in for this funding, as well as funding amounts for 2024 and estimates for 2025.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

### 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline Implementation One Year After Launch

On July 16, 2022, the federally mandated crisis number, 988, became available to all landline and cell phone users, providing a single three-digit number to access a network of more than 200 local and state-funded crisis centers.

While more than 95% of nearly 7,400 calls made by Hoosiers to 988 were answered in-state from April-May 2023, in-state answer rates vary widely across states—from 55 to 98%—which may reflect state investments in crisis services, as well as length of investment.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#) to read more key takeaways from Lifeline data.

### A New Strategy for Fentanyl Overdoses

Researchers at Indiana University have identified a new method of reversing the effects of fentanyl, which is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine.

"The synthetic opiates bind very tightly to the opioid receptors," said Alex Straiker, senior research scientist for the Gill Center for Biomolecular Science. "Naloxone must compete with opioids for the same binding site in the central nervous system to cancel out an overdose. But during a fentanyl overdose, naloxone and fentanyl bind to different sites, meaning there is no competition. We wanted to see if a negative allosteric modulator could reverse the fentanyl effects."

Straiker began measuring the effect of opioid receptors on a signaling molecule called cAMP. Researchers found cannabidiol, or CBD, could behave as a negative allosteric modulator at the binding site; however, high concentrations were necessary during initial testing. Researchers modified the cannabidiol structure to be more effective and found that in the in vitro (tests done on blood or tissue samples) diagnostics, it successfully reversed the effects of fentanyl.

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### Bicycle Injuries Increase

The proportion of injury-related emergency department visits accounted for by pedal cyclist injuries increased in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Increases were largest among children and adolescents aged <18 years, adults aged ≥50 years, and females. These findings, coupled with the recent increase in the number of pedal cycling fatalities, highlight the need for additional pedal cycling safety interventions. To reduce pedal cyclist injury risk, engineering and roadway designs that incorporate safety features for pedal cyclists (e.g., bicycle lanes) can be implemented, and states and localities can consider helmet laws for pedal cyclists of all ages to increase helmet use.

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### FDA Takes Steps to Facilitate Innovation for Devices Intended to Treat Opioid Use Disorder

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced new steps to help facilitate innovation in devices intended to treat opioid use disorder (OUD). The draft guidance to help sponsors design clinical studies to evaluate these devices furthers the FDA's Overdose Prevention Framework goal of advancing evidence-based treatment for those with substance use disorders.

The draft guidance provides industry critical recommendations toward efforts to bring safe and effective devices intended to treat OUD to market and provide more tools to reduce the harms that opioid use disorder causes patients, families and communities. It also provides recommendations that may be applicable to other types of studies intended to generate valid scientific evidence that may be used in providing a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness. Stakeholders can share feedback on the draft guidance, which the FDA will review before it is finalized.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

### Latest Information on Water Safety and Drowning Prevention

Drowning is a tragedy that can happen to anyone. Unfortunately, it is fast, silent, and often unexpected, so it's essential to learn the latest available water safety and drowning prevention information.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#) to read more about drowning resources and statistics from the National Drowning Prevention Alliance.

## Upcoming Events

### Midwest Injury Prevention Alliance Summit

**When:** Nov. 30

Save the date for the Annual MIPA Summit: All Systems Go! - Injury and Violence Prevention through Innovative Discovery and Practice. Registration information coming soon.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

### Questions?

### Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention

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To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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